What is claimed is:

1. A control element having a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element, the control element comprising:

an optical light guide that includes two parts, which are partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel can engage or project into the slot;

a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport; and

a light source located below the light rotor.

2. The control element according to claim 1, wherein arranged on the scale around the rotary knob of the control element are symbols, which are backlighted in the night design and are easily recognizable in the daylight design by establishing appropriate contrast with their surroundings.

3. The control element according to claim 2, wherein the symbols are produced by a laser, injection-molding, or film technique.

4. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the corona is illuminated in the night design as a luminous ring around the rotary knob and is not illuminated in the daylight design and thus very difficult or impossible to detect.

5. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by light-scattering components in the optical light guide.

6. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by an appropriate wall thickness in the symbol area.

7. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by at least one light-diverting bevel provided on an underside of the optical light guide on a circumferential side.

8. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the optical light guide is fixed relative to the control element.

9. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the optical light guide can be adjusted in functional combination with the light rotor.

10. The control element according to claim 1, wherein the optical light guide and the light rotor are formed as a single piece.

11. A control element comprising:

a rotary knob;

a corona substantially circumscribing the rotary knob, the corona being adapted to emit light therefrom;

a scale substantially circumscribing the corona and the rotary knob, the scale being adapted to emit light therefrom;

an optical light guide having an annular slot provided therein, the annular slot being formed to receive a projection extending from the scale; the optical light guide directing light towards the scale and the corona; and

a light rotor that directs light from a light source towards the optical light guide.

12. The control element according to claim 11, wherein the scale completely circumscribes the corona and the corona completely circumscribes the rotary knob.

13. The control element according to claim 11, wherein the light rotor directs light towards the optical light guide from an outer perimeter of the light rotor.

14. The control element according to claim 11, wherein the scale includes at least one symbol formed thereon.

15. The control element according to claim 11, wherein a surface of the corona is formed to resemble a surface of the rotary knob and/or the scale such that a user is not able to detect the corona when light is not being emitted by the corona.